Toast to Irene Adler

– Evelyn Herzog, ASH, BSI

Sherlock Holmes found Irene Adler something of an enigma and after all these years she still continues to intrigue Sherlockians. With modern online databases at our fingertips – not to mention the ever-growing heaps of volumes that so many of us almost unwittingly acquire – we are all surrounded by vast intellectual resources. Perhaps there are some topics we could research to gain insight into this special woman. Let me suggest a few:

Adventuress;
Bonnet (comma) daintiest thing under a;
Contralto;
Diva;
Emigration;
Fury (comma) Hell's;
Glamour;
Holmes (comma) Sherlock (comma) beaten three times by men and once by a woman;
I for Intelligence *and* Intuition;
Jersey (comma) New (comma) distinguished daughters of;
Klein (comma) Isadora – compare and contrast bad and good adventuresses;
London;
Matrimony;
Norton (comma) Godfrey;
Opera;
Photographs (comma) cabinet size;
Queens and Kings of Europe (after all, she almost was one);
Railways; St. John's Wood (comma) notable residents of;
Trouser Roles;
Ulster (the garment, not the locality);
Victoria (comma) Queen – more compare and contrast;
Wilhelm King of Bohemia (comma) errors of;
Xena Princess Warrior (comma) inspirations for;
Yugoslavia (specifically Montenegro); and
Zeisler (comma) Ernest B. (because sometimes you've got to deal with chronology).

And yet, even if you research all these topics and correlate them with what we know of Irene Adler, I think she will remain as intriguing and mysterious as Sherlock Holmes found her. To Irene Adler!